

GENERAL NOTES

HAWKS TRAPPED NEAR STILLWATER

During the fall, winter, and spring of 1947 and 1948, Mr. Driskel trapped hawks and other predatory birds on his farm in the tallgrass prairie type 8 miles east of Stillwater, Oklahoma. The area consists of rolling pasture lands, cut through at intervals by streamways lined with elms, willows, and other bottomland trees, and with the blackjack-postoak forest type not far distant in any direction. The following species were examined by us on April 5, 1948:

Marsh Hawk.....	91
Crow.....	85
Red-tailed Hawk.....	82
Horned Owl.....	8
American Rough-legged Hawk.....	4
Short-eared Owl.....	3
Barred Owl.....	1
Sparrow Hawk.....	1
Swainson's Hawk.....	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	1
Screech Owl.....	1
Prairie Falcon.....	1
Total.....	279

Mr. Driskel explained that most of these birds were taken in small steel traps set on the ground, although a few were set on poles. Most of the traps were baited with jack rabbit, but others with tethered birds or live bait. It may also be of interest that practically none of these birds, with the possible exception of the Sharp-shinned Hawk, can be considered harmful from the standpoint of the economics involved.

The catch cannot be considered representative of the population since only those species were taken which were amenable to capture by steel traps mostly set on the ground; nevertheless, the record gives some indication of the composition of the migratory and resident predators found in this part of the country during the cooler parts of the year.—FRED M. BAUMGARTNER, Department of Zoology, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, and WALTER P. TAYLOR, Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

BUTCHER BIRD FEEDS ON GROUND SQUIRREL

On June 7, 1948, on rolling prairie land north of Elmira, Solano County, California, Gunnar Larson and I found a nest of the California Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) 6 feet from the ground with the dried skin of a Douglas Ground Squirrel (*Citellus douglasii*) hanging from a twig 10 inches from the nest. The flesh had been stripped from the squirrel's body, leaving the head, the skin, and leg bones attached to the skin. I concluded from the available evidence that some mammal, or possibly a Turkey Vulture, had stripped the squirrel prior to its discovery by the shrike. The squirrel, after removal of the viscera and a large part of the flesh, would probably not have been too heavy for the adult shrike to carry. The skin was attached to the twig in such a way as only a shrike could have accomplished.—EMERSON A. STONER, Benicia, California.